



Sierra Day in the Capitol

April 14, 2010

Become Sierra Aware

A broad array of interests from within and outside the Sierra Nevada have come together to sponsor Sierra Day in the Capitol on April 14th. This special day is dedicated to raising awareness among members of the Legislature and legislative staff about the Sierra Nevada and the importance of the Region to the entire state. This is accomplished through meetings with individual members and their staff, a display outside the Governor's Office featuring beautiful original works by Sierra Nevada photographers, and a Sierra Day reception at the nearby Stanford Mansion. The Sierra Day reception will be followed by the Sierra Business Council's annual Vision 2020 Awards event.

Nineteen organizations in all are involved with Sierra Day in the Capitol this year, representing landowner, environmental, business, and recreational interests. All agree that the well-being of the region--which covers one-quarter of the State--is vital to the well-being of California, because of the many benefits it provides. These benefits include:

- **Providing 65% of California's developed water supply**
- **Providing a home to 60% of California's animal and 50% of California's plant species;** more animal and plant species than the entire Eastern United States, east of the Mississippi. Three hundred and fifty of these species can only be found in the Sierra Nevada.
- **Providing 15% of California's energy supply through hydroelectric power generation;** the Region also provides other forms of renewable energy such as geothermal, wind, solar, and biomass energy production.
- **Providing refuge to 50 million visitors each year,** who come to enjoy the breathtaking natural beauty, exceptional recreational opportunities, and rich history and culture of the Region.
- **Providing up to 50% of California's annual timber yield**
- **Providing tremendous capacity to remove carbon from California's air** and store it in Sierra Nevada forests and rangelands.

In addition to receiving information about the many benefits the Sierra Nevada Region provides to California, members of the Legislature and legislative staff will hear about how investment in the Region not only helps to safeguard and enhance those benefits, but also creates green jobs. They are also being invited to participate in a number of tours and events occurring in the Sierra Nevada this year.



Sierra Day Sponsors

Bear-Yuba Partnership

California Cattlemen's Association

California Forestry Association

California Rangeland Trust

California Ski Industry Association

Caltrout

Mountain Counties Water Resources Association

Northern Sierra Partnership

Pacific Forest Trust

Planning and Conservation League

Regional Council of Rural Counties

Sierra Business Council

Sierra-Cascade Land Trust Council

Sierra Environmental Water Caucus

Sierra Nevada Alliance

Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Southern Sierra Partnership

The Sierra Fund

The Trust for Public Land